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GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

BY

GEO. C. HURLBUT, *Librarian.*

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS AT STOCKHOLM, AUGUST 3-8, 1894.—The programme of the Congress is as follows :

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

1. Chronological and geographical calculation of the periods in the history of America.
2. Study of the medical effects of remedies belonging to the vegetable, mineral and animal kingdoms, and transmitted by the natives to the Conquerors.
3. Relations which existed among the different American peoples before the Discovery.
4. Military organization of the American nations before the XVIth century.
5. Influence of the Discovery of America upon geographical science.
6. Proofs of Asiatic influence upon the culture of Central America.
7. Social position of the Inca Capac. Was he an absolute monarch, or an ordinary warrior chief ?
8. The marine charts of the Atlantic and the Pacific during the XVIth century, and the first half of the XVIIth.
9. First commercial relations between Europe and the American coasts of the Pacific Ocean.

10. Pre-Columbian communications between Iceland and North America.

ANTHROPOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY.

11. Enumeration of the indigenous human races of America which present, like the hunchbacks of Guajira in Colombia, organic deformities. Causes of these deformities.

12. Origin and progress of the Carib race in America. Characteristics of this race.

13. On the different forms of arrows among the natives of Central America, and their use.

14. On the form of the huts of the natives of Central America.

15. On the clubs of Guiana. What is their geographical distribution? What purposes did they serve, and what is the meaning of their ornamentation?

16. What is known as to the signification of the ornamental art of the South American Indians in general?

17. What relation exists between the culture of the Indians of the Northwest and that of the other peoples of North America, especially in what concerns their ornamental art?

18. On the latest investigations concerning the epoch of the first appearance of man in America, and their results.

19. On the relations between the Eskimos and the other native races of North America.

20. What is the relation between the modern so-called Pueblo Indians and the pre-historical agricultural peoples of the Southern States of North America?

ARCHÆOLOGY.

21. Can the iron arms and implements found at Payson (Utah), in Illinois, at Circleville, and at other places in the United States of North America, be considered as authentically pre-Columbian, and are they an evident proof that the natives of that region mined, worked and made use of iron before the arrival of the Spaniards of the XVth and XVIth centuries?

22. Studies of the Central American stone sculptures.

23. On the pre-Columbian burial-places of Costa Rica.

24. On the pottery of Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

25. On the stone rings of Puerto Rico.

26. Is it possible to make a chronological classification of the architectural monuments in Mexico and Central America?

27. On the culture of the Chibchas and the relation it bears to the other American cultures.

28. Analogies between the primitive civilization of America and that of the ancient world.

29. Up to what point were the great stone constructions, of which the ruins are found in the Southern States of North America, abandoned, at the time of Coronado's expedition?

30. Do the cave-dwellings and those dug out in the rocks indicate a phase in the development of the agricultural Indians anterior to the great stone constructions?

LINGUISTICS AND PALÆOGRAPHY.

31. The Indian hieroglyphs.

32. New researches on the indigenous languages of the peoples of Central America and their affinity with those of Mexico and South America. Their geographical distribution.

33. On the names of animals in the native languages of Central America.

34. On the relation between the Eskimo tongue, with its unvarying character and its slight traces of dialect, and the different idioms of the North American Indians.

35. On the tongues of the Indians in Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

36. On the rock sculptures found in Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

THE CHART OF THE ADMIRAL'S FOURTH VOYAGE, BY BARTHOLOMEW COLUMBUS.—In a paper with this title,* Dr. Franz v. Wieser describes three remarkable sketch-maps drawn on the margins of the letter written by Columbus from Jamaica on the 7th of July, 1503. This letter occupies pp. 54–64 of Codex 81, Class XIII., in the Biblioteca Nazionale, at Florence, and the maps, which are hasty pen-drawings, have been hitherto wholly overlooked. Taken together, they form a complete map of the torrid zone.

Three plates of the sketch-maps, here reproduced, accompany the paper.

Dr. Wieser believes that in these sketches we possess a copy of the lost map drawn by Bartholomew Columbus and attached to the description of Veragua, which

* Mittheilungen des Instituts für Oesterreichische Geschichtsforschung, IV Ergänzungsband, S. 488–498, Innsbruck, 1893.

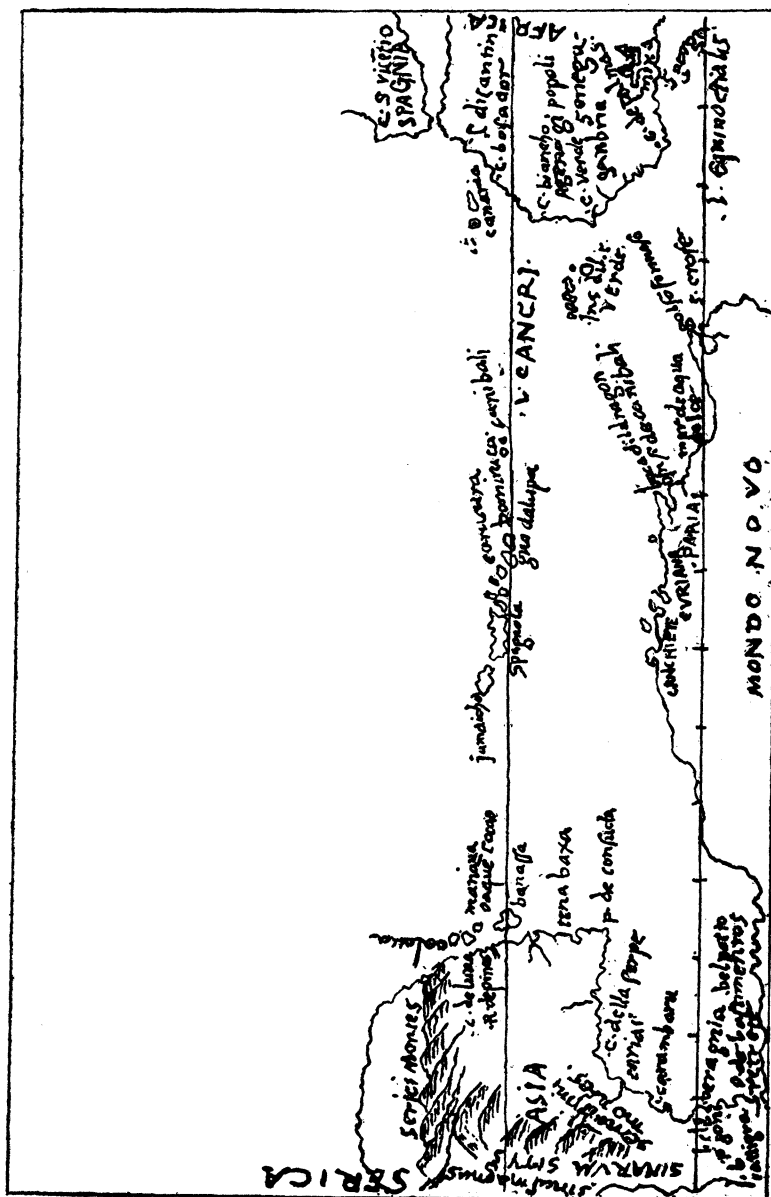


PLATE I.: COPY OF MAP DRAWN BY BARTHOLOMEW COLUMBUS.

he took with him when he visited Rome, after the death of his brother, to ask the Pope to intercede with the Court of Spain for the dispatch of a new expedition under his command to the regions which he and the Admiral had discovered, in the Fourth Voyage. It is not possible to doubt, on comparing this map with the description of Veragua,* that the one belongs to the other.

The first sketch-map (Plate I.) is on a smaller scale than the others, and it is also drawn with greater care. It shows the West Indies, the northern coast of South America, and the Central American shores as part of Asia. Columbus says, in the letter from Jamaica: "They also say that the sea surrounds Ciguare, and that at ten days' journey from thence is the river Ganges. These lands appear to have the same bearings with respect to Veragua as Tortosa has to Fontarabia, or Pisa to Venice." (*Select Letters of Columbus, etc.* Tr. by R. H. Major. Second Edition. London, Hakluyt Society, 1870, p. 182.)

Plate II. shows this identification of the American mainland with Asia in a still more striking manner. Veragua, Carambaru, Cariai and other Central American names are written on the coast of China (Sinarum Situs), next to India beyond the Ganges; and on the western side of the isthmus lies Cattigara, the populous emporium of the Far East, mentioned by Marinus of Tyre and Ptolemy, and supposed by some to be Canton.

* The text of the description is found in HARRISSE'S *Bibliotheca Americana Vetustissima*, pp. 471-474. Dr. Wieser reprints it after careful collation with the original MS. in the Biblioteca Nazionale, of Florence.

In Plate III. the Admiral's belief concerning the extension of the continental mass of the inhabited world appears in the following characteristic legend on the West African Coast : " According to Marinus and Columbus there are, from Cape St. Vincent to Cattigara, 225 degrees, which make 15 hours. According to Ptolemy, the number of degrees to Cattigara is 180, equal to 12 hours."*

Upon this Dr. Wieser remarks that Columbus adopted the calculation of Marinus, because it diminished the breadth of the ocean, and one of his strongest arguments in support of his great project of discovery had been that, by sailing to the westward across the comparatively narrow sea, he would reach the eastern shores of Asia. On the Fourth Voyage he gave still more emphatic expression to this thought, in order to demonstrate that he had in fact arrived at the Asiatic Continent.

It cannot be said that Dr. Wieser overstates the importance of these historical relics which he was the first to recognize. They form, as he says, the only cartographical document which goes back to the Discoverer himself; and they reflect his geographical ideas more truly than all the other monuments of cartography which have come down to us from the age of the great oceanic discoveries.

MEMORIALS OF DR. JOHN RAE.—A biography of the late Dr. John Rae, F.R.S., the Arctic traveller, being in course of preparation, Mrs. Rae will be much obliged

* Secondo Marino e Colombo da C. San Vicentio a Cattigara g. 225, sono hore: 15. Secondo ptolomeo infino a Cattigara g. 180, che sia hore 12.

by the loan of correspondence or any other documents likely to help her.

Her address is

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10 Royal Terrace,
Warrior Square,
St. Leonards-on-Sea.

FAHRENHEIT AND CENTIGRADE.—The *Journal* of the Manchester Geographical Society, Vol. 9, Nos. 7-9, contains a short article by the Marquis de Nadaillac on The Extreme Heat and Cold Endured By Man. No fault can be found with M. de Nadaillac's argument as to the power of man to resist extremes of temperature, but he is not often right in his statements. He refers to Verkhoyansk, a "*small Siberian town at the mouth of the Lena,*" as the coldest place in the world. Verkhoyansk is situated on the upper Yana River, 250 miles east of the Lena and even more than that distance from its mouth.

M. de Nadaillac praises the courage of Mrs. Peary, who accompanied her husband to McCormick Bay, *where they lived under a temperature varying from —30° C. to —50° C.*

Mr. Peary used the Fahrenheit thermometer, and the lowest reading recorded by him,—50°, is equivalent to —45.56° C.

A similar confusion of the Fahrenheit with the Centigrade scale occurs in the reference to *the highest amount of cold ever suffered by white man*, as recorded by Mr. Gilder, who was attached to Schwatka's expedition in search of Franklin. According to the Marquis

de Nadaillac, Mr. Gilder, in his letters sent home during the winter of 1879-80, speaks of the thermometer *lower than* -71°C .

It does not appear by what mail the letters were sent, but in the published account of the expedition the following figures are given :

The mean temperature for December was -50.4 degrees Fahrenheit, the lowest -69 degrees, and the highest -26 degrees. January 3d the thermometer reached the lowest point that we saw during our sojourn in this climate—in the morning -70 degrees, at noon -69 degrees, and at five o'clock in the afternoon the extraordinary mark of -71 degrees.*

The comparison is easily made. Seventy-one degrees below zero of the Fahrenheit thermometer are equal to a little more than fifty-seven degrees below zero of the Centigrade.

M. de Nadaillac's article is printed as an original contribution to the *Journal* of the Manchester Geographical Society, and nothing is said of its publication (*verbatim*, with the exception of three words in the last paragraph) in the New York *Science* of January 27, 1893. A writer is free to repeat his errors, if he will; but he ought to call attention to the fact of repetition.

THE PEARY AUXILIARY EXPEDITION.—This expedition, under the auspices of the Geographical Club of Philadelphia, was planned by Mr. Peary before his departure for Greenland last year, and the money for chartering the vessel was mainly furnished by him. The details of the expedition were entrusted to Prof. Angelo Heilprin, who, it was thought, would take com-

* Schwatka's Search. Sledging in the Arctic in quest of the Franklin Records. By William H. Gilder, second in command. With Maps and Illustrations. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1881.

mand. Being detained at home, however, Prof. Heilprin resigned the leadership to Mr. Henry G. Bryant, Secretary of the Geographical Club; and the party left Brooklyn June 20 in the steamer *Portia* for St. Johns, Newfoundland. At St. Johns the whaler *Falcon* will take them and start for Godhavn about the 4th of July.

A stop will be made at the Eskimo settlements near Cape York, and about the end of July, it is hoped, the vessel will reach Mr. Peary's headquarters in Inglefield Gulf.

Mr. Peary, it is supposed, will not return from his sledge journey till the end of August; and the members of the Auxiliary Expedition will employ the time before his arrival, if opportunity offers, in searching Ellesmere Land for traces of the lost Swedish naturalists, Björling and Kallstenius, and their two companions. Those best acquainted with the conditions of Arctic life are inclined to believe that these unfortunate men may have survived through two seasons to be rescued at last.

By the terms of the agreement with Mr. Peary the *Falcon* must be at Bowdoin Bay to take him and his party on board by the 1st of September; and the plans for exploration and survey of Jones Sound and the coast of Ellesmere Land will necessarily be subordinated to this condition.

Mr. Bryant's party is composed of Prof. Wm. Libbey, Jr., of Princeton College; Prof. T. C. Chamberlin, University of Chicago; Dr. Axel Ohlin, sent by the Swedish Government; Dr. H. E. Wetherill, Mr. H. Bridgman, and Mr. Emil Diebitsch, brother of Mrs. Peary.

DISCOVERY IN THE ANTARCTIC.—Dr. John Murray prints, in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* for April, some abstracts from the log of the Norwegian schooner *Jason*, Capt. Larsen, which succeeded in penetrating last year to a considerable distance beyond the Antarctic Circle.

On the 18th of November Capt. Larsen landed on Seymour Island, south of Louis Philippe Land, and walked a good distance. The island is rocky, with deep valleys. On some days a great deal of whales' food was seen in the water, besides seals and whales and numerous birds.

November 29, the *Jason* proceeded to the south, and December 1, rocky land, with a very high peak in the west southwest, was seen to the east, in lat. $66^{\circ} 4'$ S., and long. $59^{\circ} 49'$ W. The direction of the coast was from N. W. to S. E., and the ice-barrier ran out five miles to sea. December 4, in lat. $67^{\circ} 0'$, long. $60^{\circ} 0'$ W., high land covered with snow was seen to the south. Masses of ice were constantly falling from the icebergs. December 6, the *Jason* reached lat. $68^{\circ} 10'$ S., her most southerly point, and found low bay ice with few cracks. There was less fog than farther north and the weather was "nice and warm." December 9, steering to the north, new land was seen to the S. W., and later a high snow-covered island. On the 10th of December a northeasterly current of two knots was encountered.

December 11, a small active volcanic island was found. A landing was made with three boats; and Capt. Larsen and his mate went on snow-shoes over the ice to the land, a distance of seven miles to the

edge. Seals were numerous. A second volcano was seen to the N. W. The log says :

“Both islands smoked very much, and the ice around the volcano was bestrewed with ejected stones. W. to N., in straight line, we saw five islands. These islands are not covered with snow. The ice is lying fast between the islands.”

The position given is lat. $65^{\circ} 7' S.$, long. $58^{\circ} 22' W.$

Dr. Murray makes a strong appeal for a British Antarctic Expedition, to be undertaken by the Royal Navy.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC, it is understood, will issue a special *Bulletin*, containing a report of proceedings, and all the papers presented at the Conference held on the 4th of May at Festival Hall, within the Exposition grounds at San Francisco.

THE SELLA PHOTOGRAPHS.—This collection of mountain views, prepared by Signor Sella for competition at the Geographical Congress held in February, 1893, at Turin, where he received for it the great gold medal, was put on exhibition in America in May of that year, under the auspices of the Appalachian Mountain Club, of Boston.

It has since become the property of the Club, which, with characteristic liberality, has granted the use of it to associations in other cities.

In making arrangements to bring these pictures before the people of New York, the American Geographical Society was cordially aided by the Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History, who furnished one of their spacious and nobly lighted halls for the display of the photographs, and charged themselves with all the details of the installation.

The exhibition, which was opened May 14 and continued for four weeks, gave equal pleasure and instruction to the thousands of visitors. Familiar as many of these were with the scenery of Switzerland and the Tyrol, they were wholly unprepared for the desolate sublimity of the high Alps and the Caucasus, at elevations known only to experienced guides and to the most daring members of the Alpine Clubs. The steady nerve, the fearless spirit, the firm step belonged to others as well as to Signor Sella; but he alone conceived and carried out, in spite of all difficulties, the design of photographing the aspects of Nature at those heights beyond the rumour of the world,—the plains of untrodden snow, the glaciers and the crevasses, the bare rocks and the unattainable peaks, the gathering storm-clouds rolling far down on the side of the mountain.

His work is an original contribution to science as well as to art; hardly less, indeed, than the discovery of what was for most men an unknown world.

ORIGIN OF THE PLANTS CULTIVATED IN EGYPT.—Dr. Schweinfurth contributes to the *Bulletin* of the Société Khédiviale de Géographie, IVth Series, No. 2, a note on the plants of Egypt.

He recognizes three factors of the ancient Egyptian civilization: agriculture, the art of writing, and religion.

The agriculture and the grain, and perhaps the writing, point to Babylonia. The case is different with the religion.

Dr. Schweinfurth remarks that the symbolical use of incense is common to all the most ancient systems of worship mentioned in historical tradition, and to all the

Semitic religions; and that incense is a product of Southern Arabia and of the opposite coast of Africa.

Few natural products, he affirms, are so limited in geographical distribution as incense, and few substances admit of a definition so precise. The geographical nomenclature of the ancients designates the 'incense-bearing regions by terms more or less related to religion and to the supernatural world. By the side of the *Regio thurifera* (producing incense, balms and aromatics), we find *Arabia Felix* (*Eudaimôn* in Greek), the *Sacra Regio*, *Saba* or *Sara* called *Mysterium*, the Country of the Gods (*Punt*), etc. The evidence leads him to declare :

"I therefore do not hesitate to believe that the cradle of all the religions of our historical world, in so far as they are based on revelation, on tradition and upon a priestly caste, is to be found near the native land of incense, that is to say, in Arabia. In support of this assertion I shall also cite this fact, that the two sacred trees of the Egyptians, the sycomore and the persea,* consecrated, the one to Athor and the other to Isis, are indigenous to the same country. These two trees play an important part in the most ancient inscriptions and their symbolism goes back to the most remote traditions. It is now established that these two trees, which are not found and never were found in Egypt in any but the cultivated state, grow spontaneously at this day in Arabia Felix and in Northern Abyssinia, where I have often met with them."

Dr. Schweinfurth counts 1,320 species of vascular

* "The persea (*Balanites Ægyptiaca*) . . . is a bushy tree or shrub, which attains the height of eighteen or twenty feet under favorable circumstances. The bark is whitish, the branches gracefully curved, the foliage of an ashy grey, more especially on its under surface. The lower branches are thickly garnished with long thorns, but the upper ones are thornless.

The fruit, which grows chiefly on the upper boughs, and which the Arabs call *lalôb*, is of about the size of a small date, and resembles the date in general character."

(History of Ancient Egypt. By George Rawlinson, M.A. 8vo, 2 vols. London and New York, 1881. Vol. I, pp. 53-54.)

According to Schweinfurth the botanical name of the persea is not *balanites Ægyptiaca*, but *Mimusops Schimperii*, Hochst.

plants in the flora of Egypt. The number of useful plants now cultivated on a large scale is 150. Of these only 50 were known before the Christian Era; specimens of 40 of them have been found in the tombs and monuments, and the remaining 10 are mentioned in inscriptions; so that, in order to reconstitute theoretically the ancient agriculture, we shall dispose, at the most, of no more than the third part of the plants now under cultivation.

In the primitive state of the Nile valley, before the invasion of the Hamites, the land was covered by forests along the river banks and by savannas like those of Central Africa, and was inhabited by an aboriginal race, of which no vestige remains. These aborigines perhaps cultivated the following plants, which grow wild on the upper Nile, beyond 15° N. Lat.:

Lablab vulgaris, *vigna sinensis*, *cajanus flavus*, *cucumis melo*, *luffa acutangula*, *corchorus olitorius*, *hibiscus esculentus*, *hibiscus cannabinus*, *citrullus edulis*.

This is called the First Epoch.

The Second Epoch is that of the hypothetical colonization of Egypt by the Hamites. In this the forests disappear, pasture lands are extended and cultivation begins.

The Third Epoch is marked by the introduction of civilization, and by the development of religion; and perhaps by that of hieroglyphic writing. Introduction also of the use of incense, indispensable to the ritual; acclimatization of the sacred trees of Arabia Felix, the Persea (*Mimusops Schimperi* H.), the Sycomore (*Ficus Sycomorus*, Gaert.), and the Fig-tree (*Ficus Carica*).

Towards the end of this epoch, the cereals are imported from the countries of the Euphrates. Beginning of the cultivation of spelt, wheat, barley, flax and the vine.

The Fourth Epoch is that of the distinctive Egyptian culture and civilization, and to it belong the divisions into Early, Middle and Later Empires, with the subdivisions of the Libyco-Ethiopian Empire.

In the Fifth Epoch Egypt transmits the fruits of civilization to other nations, receiving in exchange a great number of useful plants previously unknown to her. This epoch may be divided into five periods, corresponding to the different occupations of the country by foreigners: the Persian, the Greek, the Roman, the Byzantine and the Arabic periods.

The Sixth and last Epoch is signalized by extreme decadence, followed by a revival, similar to a rise of the Nile after an extraordinary low stage of water. This epoch begins with the conquest of Egypt by the Ottomans in 1517. Towards the second part of the period there is an agricultural regeneration and with it a limited return to civilization.

Even in its decadence the country receives, through Venice, useful plants from the lately discovered America: maize, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, pimento and tobacco. Besides these, according to Dr. Schweinfurth, the Egyptian agriculture has received from various countries the following contributions of plants:

TROPICAL AFRICA (by way of India): sesame, rice, sugar-cane and sorghum.

ARABIA FELIX: sycomore, persea, fig, colocasia and pomegranate (?).

BABYLONIA : the cereals, spelt, wheat, barley, onions, leeks, garlic, lentils.

PERSIA AND INDIA : henna, citron, pomegranate (?), cedrat.

INDIA (by way of Southern Arabia) : white mulberry, banana, bitter orange, lemon.

SYRIA AND ARMENIA : black mulberry, flax (?), the vine, radish, chickpea, carthamus, poppy.

COASTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN : bean, carrot, lettuce, olive.

BALKAN PENINSULA : lupin, clover.

THE CONVENTION BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE CONGO STATE.—Until the end of May it was believed that communication between British South Africa and the Nile basin was effectually cut off by the interposed territories of the Congo Free State and German East Africa, stretching across the Continent. Germany had refused to allow a right of way to the English; but this did not dispose of the matter. A house with two doors is not easily watched, and the Congo State yielded to arguments, such as could be urged upon a Government based upon philanthropy, and declared to be perpetually neutral. The result of these arguments is embodied in the Convention of May 12, 1894, here translated from the text published in *Le Mouvement Géographique*, of Brussels, May 27 :

CONVENTION BETWEEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE CONGO FREE STATE.—The undersigned, M. Van Eetvelde, Secretary of State for the Interior of the Congo Free State, acting in the name of the Congo Free State,

and

the Hon. Sir Francis Richard Plunkett, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Britannic Majesty to the King of the Belgians, acting in the

name of the British Government, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have agreed as follows :

His Majesty the King of the Belgians, Sovereign of the Congo Free State, having recognised the sphere of British influence as determined in the Anglo-German arrangement of the 1st of July, 1890, Great Britain engages to give under lease to His Majesty certain territories situated in the western Nile basin, on the conditions specified in the following articles :

ARTICLE I. *A.*—It is agreed that the sphere of influence of the Congo Free State shall be limited to the north of the German sphere in East Africa by a frontier following the 30th meridian east of Greenwich to its intersection with the watershed of the waters of the Nile and the Congo, and the watershed itself in the direction of the north and the northwest.

B.—The frontier between the Congo Free State and the British sphere, to the north of the Zambezi, shall follow a line going directly from the extremity of Cape Akalunga on Lake Tanganika, situated at the most northern point of Cameron Bay, in about $8^{\circ} 15'$ south latitude, to the right bank of the River Luapula, at the point where this river issues from Lake Moero.*

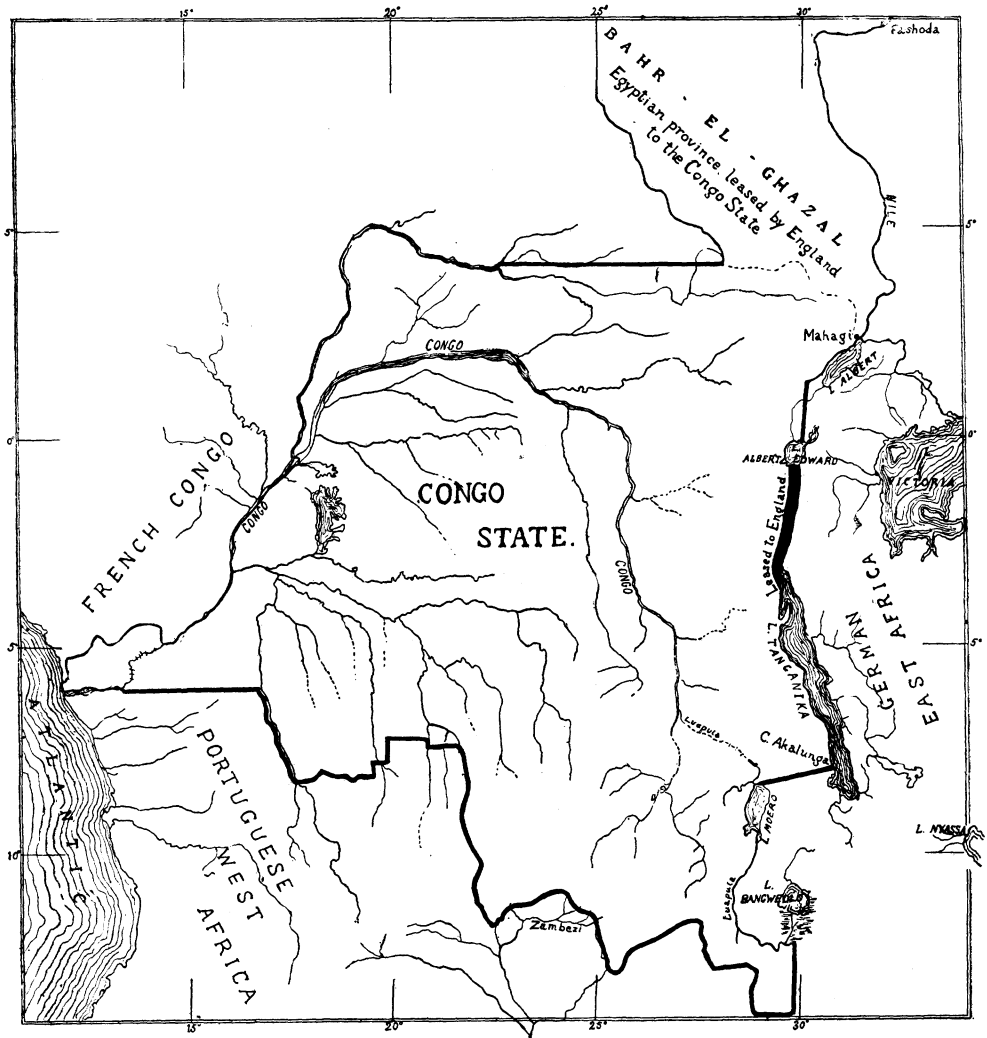
The line shall then be prolonged directly to the point where this river enters into the lake; deviating, however, towards the south of the lake in such a manner as to leave the Island of Kilwa to Great Britain. It shall then follow the *thalweg* of the Luapula to the point where this river issues from Lake Bangweolo. It shall then follow, in the direction of the south, the meridian of longitude passing by that point as far as the watershed between the Congo and the Zambezi, and from there the watershed itself as far as the Portuguese frontier.

ARTICLE II.—Great Britain gives under lease to His Majesty the King Leopold II., Sovereign of the Congo Free State, the territories hereinafter specified, to be occupied and administered by him, on the conditions and for the period of time hereinafter stipulated:

These territories shall be bounded by a line, beginning at a point situated on the western shore of Lake Albert (Albert Nyanza) immediately to the south of Mahagi, and continuing to the point nearest to the frontier defined in paragraph *A* of the preceding article. This line shall then follow the watershed between the Congo and the Nile as far as the 25th meridian east of Greenwich and this meridian to its intersection with the 10th parallel of north latitude, and shall then follow this parallel directly to a point to be determined, north of Fashoda. It shall then follow the *thalweg* of the Nile in a southern direction as far as Lake Albert and the western shore of this lake to the point above indicated, to the south of Mahagi.

This lease shall remain in force during the reign of H. M. Leopold II., Sovereign of the Congo Free State. However, at the expiration of His Majesty's reign, it shall remain in force in full right in that which concerns all the part of

* The Luapula River flows out of Lake Bangweolo and passes through Lake Moero from south to north.



MAP ILLUSTRATING THE CONVENTION BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE CONGO STATE.

the territories above mentioned situated to the west of the 30th meridian, east of Greenwich, as well as in a strip of 25 kilometres in breadth, to be determined by mutual agreement, extending from the watershed dividing the waters of the Nile and the Congo to the western zone of Lake Albert and comprising the Port of Mahagi.

This prolonged lease shall remain in force as long as the territories of the Congo remain, either as an independent State or as a Belgian colony, under the sovereignty of His Majesty and His Majesty's successors.

During the whole duration of the present lease, a special flag shall be used in the leased territories.

ARTICLE III.—The Congo Free State leases to Great Britain, to be administered when occupied by her, under the conditions and for the period hereinafter determined, a strip of land of 25 kilometres in breadth, stretching from the most northern port on Lake Tanganika, which port is comprised in the strip, to the most southern point of Lake Albert Edward.

This lease shall have the same duration as the one which applies to the territories situated to the west of the 30th meridian east of Greenwich.

ARTICLE IV.—H. M. the King Leopold II., Sovereign of the Congo Free State, recognises that he has not and that he does not seek to acquire any political rights in the territories which are ceded to him under lease in the Nile basin, other than those which are in conformity with the present arrangement.

In like manner, Great Britain recognises that she has not and that she does not seek to acquire any political rights in the strip of territory ceded to her under lease, between Lake Tanganika and Lake Albert Edward, other than those in conformity with the present arrangement.

ARTICLE V.—The Congo Free State authorises the construction across its territories, by Great Britain or by a company duly authorised by the English Government, of a line of telegraph uniting the English territories of South Africa with the sphere of English influence on the Nile. The government of the Congo State shall have every facility for uniting this line with its own telegraphic system.

This authorisation does not confer upon Great Britain, nor upon any company, person or persons, commissioned for the purpose of constructing the line of telegraph, any rights of police or of administration in the territory of the Congo State.

ARTICLE VI.—In the territories given under lease by the present arrangement the citizens or subjects of each of the contracting parties shall reciprocally enjoy the rights and immunities of the citizens or subjects of the other party, and shall not be subject to any differential treatment.

In faith whereof the undersigned have signed the present arrangement and have affixed to it their official seals.

Done in duplicate, at Brussels, this twelfth day of May, 1894.

EDM. VAN EETVELDE. [s.]

FR. PLUNKETT. [s.]

The mutual good-will of the parties to this agreement is no less evident than their unfeigned desire to promote the cause of civilization, without regard to self-interest. Great Britain appears to be the more generous of the two, in accepting a little strip of land, less than fifteen miles in width, as an equivalent for the large province of the Bahr-el-Ghazal ; but the province belongs to Egypt, and this fact may have had weight with England. Under the circumstances it was, perhaps, an oversight not to have made Egypt a party to the Convention, if only as a matter of form.

The stronger Powers engaged in the partition of Africa have for the most part treated each other with respect, but this latest achievement promises the beginning of trouble. Neither in France nor in Germany does it meet with approval.

In both countries the Convention is regarded as a breach of the international agreement to which the Congo Free State owes its existence and its precisely defined territory ; and it may be necessary to call a Congress of the Powers.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—According to the London *Times* of June 5, Mr. H. H. Johnston, British Commissioner for Central Africa, who reached England June 4, reported an enviable state of affairs in his department. The relations with the Portuguese, as well as with the Germans, were excellent, and the general development of the country is described as little short of marvellous. When Mr. Johnston arrived at Blantyre in 1891 there was a European population of 18.

When he passed through in 1894 there were over 90,

of whom 20 were women and children; and Mr. Johnston adds:

"The male inhabitants offered me a farewell breakfast, at which 60 sat down. There were three long tables covered with magnificent roses, cultivated by Scottish planters, and the *menu* was quite equal to that of an English provincial town. It was difficult to realize that we were in Central Africa, a region only a few years ago left blank on the map. I may say here, parenthetically, that roses flourish in the Shiré highlands as I have never seen them elsewhere. In fact, they bloom all the year round."

Three tables covered with roses and a *menu* for the exclusive enjoyment of these 60 Blantyre males! It is not a pretty picture.

The Commissioner says that the country prospers, that the Arabs are a waning force and will soon cease to be a factor in Central African politics, and that Australians are beginning to prefer Central Africa to Paraguay.

These are hopeful signs, but Australians may be dispensed with in a country which possesses the Yaos, who do the printing of the administration and of the *British Central African Gazette*. These men, the Commissioner says,

"work even without the supervision of a white man, and very few mistakes are made in setting up 'copy.' Surely this is wonderful work for utter savages. Only the last issue of the *British Central African Gazette*, printed before my departure, contained a notice inserted at the request of the German authorities dealing with the regulation and use of fire-arms in German territory. This notice, written in German, was simply handed to the Yao head printer, and it was set up with scarcely a single mistake, although the printers had never seen German before."

There is always something new from Africa, and these wonderful Yao savages, who make no mistakes in German, ought to get on very well without the Blantyre civilization.

Folk-Tales of Angola. Fifty Tales, with Ki-mbundu Text, Literal English Translation, Introduction, and Notes. Collected and Edited by Heli Chatelain, late U. S. Commercial Agent at Loanda, West Africa.

Boston and New York :

Published for the American Folk-Lore Society by Houghton, Mifflin and Company. London: David Nutt, 270, 271 Strand. Leipzig: K.F. Koehler's Antiquarium, Universitätsstrasse, 26. 1894.

This work forms the first volume of the Memoirs of the American Folk-Lore Society, and a better beginning of a series could not be made.

Mr. Chatelain tells us in his introduction, that he first visited Angola in 1885, as pioneer and linguist of Bishop William Taylor's self-supporting missions in Africa. He spent three years at Loanda and in the interior, and, after a visit to Europe, returned to West Africa with the Pensacola Eclipse Expedition in 1889. In 1891 he was appointed U. S. Commercial Agent in Angola. From the beginning he devoted himself to the study of the native tongue, the Ki-mbundu, and to the collection of its folk-lore and proverbs. Some of these, printed in his Ki-mbundu grammar, were the first specimens of this literature placed before the public.

The fifty tales contained in the present volume are but an instalment of what Mr. Chatelain hopes to bring out in time.

Angola forms a slightly irregular quadrangle, lying between 4° 40' and 17° 20' S. Lat., and covering about 1,250,000 square kilometres, or 482,645 square miles.

This area is divided into four zones : the coast-belt, from 50 to 150 miles wide and with an elevation of 100 to 150 feet, mostly a sandy, sterile region ; the mountain-belt, a zone of grand scenery, luxuriant vegetation and mineral riches ; the plateau between the Congo and the Cunene, with an altitude of 2,000 to 6,000 feet. This Mr. Chatelain calls the fore-ordained granary and live-stock ground of the coming century, and he believes that the white man will establish himself in the southern and widest portion and will thence raise the sunken Africans to his own level, presumably to their advantage. The fourth zone is the inland depression, formed by the Cuangu and the upper Zambezi basins. The population of this great territory is composed of many so-called nations and tribes. The people, speaking one language, are called a nation, and each tribe has its own dialect.

According to Mr. Chatelain there are but five collections of African negro tales, published as such : Callaway's for the Zulu, Theal's for the Kaffir, Chatelain's for Angola, Koelle's for Bornu and Schön's for Hausa. He concludes, after surveying the field, that African folk-lore is a branch of one universal tree, and that the mythologies and superstitions of the various tribes are easily reducible to one common original type ; and that this is strikingly similar to the popular conceptions of the Aryan and other great stocks of mankind.

The natives divide their folk-lore into six classes. The first, called *mi-soso*, includes traditional fictitious stories and fables. These begin and end with a special formula. The second class is that of true

stories, or stories reputed true, like our anecdotes. These are called *maka*. The third class, called *malunda*, or *mi-sendu*, is composed of the chronicles of the tribe or nation. These are regarded as state secrets, and very little of them ever reaches the plebeians. The fourth class, closely related to that of the anecdotes, is represented by the proverbs, called *ji-sabu*. The fifth class includes poetry and music. The African negroes, including even the children, are great *improvisatori*. The poetry is marked by alliteration, rhythm and parallelism, but with few signs of rhyme. Songs are called *mi-imbu*. Riddles, *ji-non-gonongo*, form the sixth class. As with the *mi-soso*, each riddle is introduced and closed with a special formula.

Animals play a great part in the Angolan folk-lore, and the animal world is organized and governed like that of man. The elephant is the king of the creation and the chief of edible wild animals. He is supreme in strength and wisdom. The lion is the special chief of ferocious beasts and the highest vassal of the elephant, but he is neither morally noble nor wise. The eagle is chief of the feathery tribe, and the bull is king of domestic animals; the fox, or jackal, is astute, the leopard vicious but dull, and the hare, or rabbit, is famous for prudence and agility; but the dog is the type of all that is mean and despicable.

The student will find, as Mr. Chatelain points out, that the West African tales have had their influence on the folk-lore of North and Central and South America. Tales XXV. and XXVIII. show the manner of these stories :

HARE AND LEOPARD.

Hare plaited his long basket, saying: "I will go to bind squashes in the field."

He started; he arrives in middle of road. He meets with Mr. Leopard; Mr. Leopard says: "Thou, Hare, thou art courageous; this whole basket here? Where dost thou go with it?" Hare said: "Lord, I am going to bind a few small squashes in the fields." Mr. Leopard said: "Thou indeed, the basket is bigger than thou; if it be full of squashes, how wilt thou carry it?" Hare said: "Lord, if (it be) thou, thyself, I am able to carry thee." Mr. Leopard said: "Thou, Hare, art presumptuous. If thou givest me up, what may I do to thee?" Hare said: "Lord, beat me."

Mr. Leopard gets into the basket. Hare said: "Lord, when I fasten the ropes to the basket, do not shriek; but beware of falling on the ground." Mr. Leopard said: "All right."

Hare took a rope; he tells Mr. Leopard, saying: "Lord, stretch (thyself) out well." Mr. Leopard stretched out; Hare bound. He takes off his hatchet from waist; he knocks (with) it Mr. Leopard on the head. Mr. Leopard says: "Thou, Hare, how dost thou mean to treat me?" Hare said: "You do hate us." Hare hits him again; Mr. Leopard dies.

Hare flayed him; he returns to his house. He ate his meat; lived on.

I have told the little story. Finished.

ELEPHANT AND FROG.

I often tell of Mr. Elephant and Mr. Frog, who were courting at one house.

One day Mr. Frog spake to the sweetheart of Mr. Elephant, saying: "Mr. Elephant (is) my horse." Mr. Elephant, when he came at night, then the girls tell him, saying: "Thou art the horse of Mr. Frog."

Mr. Elephant then goes to Mr. Frog's, saying: "Didst thou tell my sweetheart that I am thy horse?" Mr. Frog says, saying: "No, I did not say so." They go together to find the sweetheart of Mr. Elephant.

On the way Mr. Frog told Mr. Elephant, saying: "Grandfather, I have not strength to walk. Let me get up on thy back!" Mr. Elephant said: "Get up, my grandson." Mr. Frog then goes up.

When a while passed, he told Mr. Elephant: "Grandfather, I am going to fall. Let me seek small cords to bind thee in mouth." Mr. Elephant consents. Mr. Frog then does what he has asked.

When passed a little while, he told again Mr. Elephant, saying: "Let me seek a green twig to fan the mosquitoes off thee." Mr. Elephant says: "Go." He then fetches the twig.

They, when they were about to arrive, the girls saw them, and they went to meet them with shouting, saying: "Thou, Mr. Elephant, art the horse indeed of Mr. Frog!"